

HP Docket No. 10018307-1

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Office's review of the present application. In response to the Office Action, the cited references have been reviewed, and the rejections and objections made to the claims by the Examiner have been considered.

In order to place the application in condition for allowance and permit the issuance of a patent on the allowable subject matter, claims 1, 9, 16, 23-25, and 36 have been amended, and claims 3, 10, 17, and 38-40 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants believe that the amendment to the abovementioned claims does not require a further substantive examination and does not present new matter, and therefore request entry of this amendment. This Amendment should not be construed as acquiescence by Applicants in the outstanding rejection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the content of any cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections**Rejection Under 35 USC §102**

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-35, and 41 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. patent 7,016,062 to Ishizuka. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration based on the amendment to independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23-25 to include the limitations of prior dependent claims 3, 10, 17, and 38-40 respectively, which were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (none). Therefore, independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23-25 as amended are believed allowable. In addition, dependent claims 2, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 26-35, and 41, each of which depends from one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23-25, are believed allowable in dependent

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form. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn, and that these claims be deemed allowed.

Formalities

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to because of a grammatical informality. Applicants believe that the Office meant to refer to claim 3 instead of claim 1. Because the limitations of allowable claim 3 have been added to claim 1, the grammatical informality has been corrected in claim 1, and in a manner consistent with the suggestions of the Office. It is therefore believed that this amendment resolve the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Dependent claims 3, 10, 17, and 36-40 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (none).

Accordingly, as indicated above, independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23-25 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 3, 10, 17, and 38-40 respectively, and then dependent claims 3, 10, 17, and 38-40 have been canceled.

Dependent claim 36 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and thus claims 36-37 are believed allowable in dependent form. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the objection to claims 36-37 be withdrawn and these claims deemed allowed.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants agree with the Office's conclusion regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the reason(s) set forth in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants wish to emphasize that the patentability of claims stems from the respective

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combinations of elements defined by the claims, each viewed as a whole, rather than the presence of any particular element(s) in the combinations. Applicants submit that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to anticipate, teach, suggest, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased. Applicants thus rely on the claims, as drafted, rather than any characterization in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Attorney for Applicants has reviewed each one of the cited references made of record and not relied upon, and believes that the claims presently on file in the subject application patentably distinguish thereover, either taken alone or in combination with one another.

Therefore, all claims presently on file in the subject application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If it is felt for any reason that direct communication with Applicant's attorney would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Robert C. Sismilich, Esq. at the below-listed telephone number.

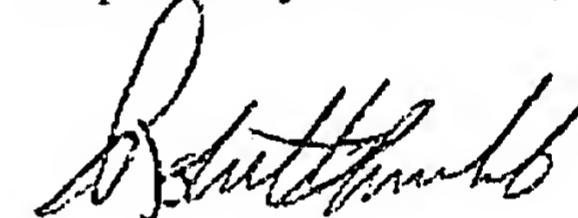
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**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION
FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES**

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the foregoing communication (including but not limited to the payment of an extension fee or issue fees), or if any overpayment is to be refunded in connection with the above-identified application, any such charges or fees, or any such overpayment, may be respectively paid out of, or into, the Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company. If any such payment also requires Petition or Extension Request, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition or Request which is required to accompany the payment.

Respectfully submitted,



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